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Hughes Scramble Is On Now

LOS ANGELES, April 17 (AP)—Officials in California and Nevada are scrambling for control of Howard Hughes' holdings and a slice of his estimated $2 billion estate.

The efforts by county officials here and in Nevada follow the temporary appointment this week of administrators to oversee Hughes' properties in California, Nevada and Texas.

Claiming that the recluse billionaire left no will, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn said Friday he will introduce a motion Tuesday to appoint Los Angeles County Public Administrator Bruce Altman to oversee Hughes' holdings here.

Hahn said that if Altman is named, legal fees to the county could run as high as $10 million.

Business associates of Hughes, who died April 5, claim that Hughes did leave a will, although officials say it has not yet been found.

Richard C. Gano Jr. of Houston, a first cousin of Hughes was appointed Wednesday to administer Hughes' California holdings on an interim basis.

But Hahn, claiming that there are no Hughes heirs in Los Angeles County, where Hughes had extensive holdings, said Altman has a "clear priority" in the case. Other county officials have questioned Gano's legal standing as an heir under California law.

In Nevada, meanwhile, Clark County Public Administrator Nat Adler filed a petition Friday to administer Hughes Nevada properties. Adler sought to substitute himself for the First National Bank of Nevada, which has been named special administrator. Hughes' Nevada holdings include a number of hotel-casinos, real estate, and other assets.

A hearing has been set for May 7 on whether to make Adler the administrator in the bank's place.

Under Nevada law, if Adler were appointed, he would have to post a bond equal to the value of the entire Nevada holdings, minus $25,000.

In Houston, Hughes' aunt and her son were sworn in Thursday as temporary administrators of his properties.

A $200,000 bond for Annette Gano Lummis, 85, and her son, William R. Lummis, 47, was posted with Probate Judge Pat Gregory.

Hughes Got Data On Screen Near Bed

ACAPULCO, Mexico, April 17 (AP) — Howard Hughes kept up with the outside world by film projected on a screen in front of his bed, according to a Mexican doctor who examined the reclusive billionaire the day he died.

The detail provided by Dr. Victor Montemayor provided one more glimpse into the hidden world of Hughes' last 20 years, the final weeks of which he spend in an eight-room penthouse on the 20th floor of the Hotel Princess before he died April 5.

Hughes, 70 and his team of eight men, two of them doctors, arrived from the Bahamas before dawn Feb. 11.

An aide said in a sworn statement to police that he had been sent previously to inspect the penthouse. Clarence Waldron, 41, of Sun Valley, Calif., told police that he took photographs and movies of the penthouse back to Hughes, who then approved the move suggested by one of his doctors.